



REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held January 14, 2008.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Councilmembers Leta M. Mach, Rodney M. Roberts, Edward V. J. Putens, and Mayor Judith F. Davis. Councilmember Konrad E. Herling was unable to attend because he was not feeling well.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Andrew Nussbaum, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis asked for a moment of silence in memory of former residents John Michael Simko, Helen F. Oring-Nichols, and Anthony M. Casarella. She also asked to remember State Senator Gwendolyn Britt, who died this week, and Wei Chiu, father of Pei-Lu Chiu of Greenbelt. She then led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Davis asked to remove the minutes of the regular meeting of December 10 from the consent agenda. It was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the consent agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Regular Meeting, November 26, 2007
- Interview, December 10, 2007
- Legislative Dinner, December 18, 2007
- Interviews, January 7, 2007
- Work Session, January 7, 2008

Approved as presented.

RESIGNATION FROM ADVISORY GROUP: Council accepted with regret the resignation of Raymond Peterson from the Advisory Committee on Education.

REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: The City Council appointed the following individuals to new terms on their advisory groups (four-year terms for the Board of Elections, three-year terms for all others):

Jean Cook	Board of Elections
Judith Ott	Board of Elections
Coleen Chernikoff	Employee Relations Board

Marti Galvin	Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee
James A. Bowles	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Etta M. Fitzgerald	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
Leonie Penney	Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

APPOINTMENTS TO FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD: The City Council made the following appointments to the newly formed board:

Kathleen Bucco	Donna L. Hoffmeister	Franklin Noll
Valerie Elliott	Ruth E. Kastner	Luisa F. Robles
Susan K. Gregersen	Ginny Mudrock	Jean Snyder

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Mach asked to add to the agenda as item #18 “Additional Appointment to Advisory Group.” It was then moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that the agenda be approved as amended. The motion passed 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Recognition of Linda Kuo: Last fall, the *Washington Post* invited young artists (ages 5-12) to submit original works of art illustrating the pleasures of reading. The winning entry, submitted by Linda Kuo, a resident of Greenbelt and fourth-grader at Greenbelt Elementary School, was used as the cover for the issue of the December 9, 2007, issue of *Book World*. Linda, her parents, and her brother attended the meeting to be recognized by the City Council.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS: None.

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting, December 10, 2007: Mayor Davis asked to amend the minutes to indicate that former resident Donald H. Cooper had also been a Greenbelt Pioneer. With that addition, it was moved by Mr. Putens and seconded by Ms. Mach that this set of minutes be approved. The motion carried 4-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin announced that the first Community Visioning session had been held Saturday at Springhill Lake, with the second one to be held January 26 at the Municipal Building, and the third at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on February 2.

Ms. Gallagher said she had distributed information to Council regarding the splitting of precinct 13 by the County Board of Elections for the upcoming presidential primary. What will remain in the precinct designated as 13 is everything north of Greenbelt Road and an area south of Greenbelt Road, with Hanover Parkway, Ora Glen Drive, and Mandan Road serving as the other borders. The rest of the residences in Greenbelt East south of Greenbelt Road will comprise new precinct 18. She noted that at a minimum there is one street, Sunrise Court, which is listed incorrectly as being in precinct 18. She said that after checking the list thoroughly she would

contact the county.

Ms. Mach said Greenbelt New Year had been especially good this year. She also reported on attending a Women in Government Service meeting.

Mayor Davis commented on the recent fire at Springhill Lake and thanked City staff, the Police Department, and all the area fire stations that responded. She thanked Springhill Lake Elementary School for hosting the first of the City's three Community Visioning sessions, as well as the citizens who attended. She congratulated Ms. Mach on her election as vice-chair of the COG Air Quality Committee and noted that she herself had been elected treasurer of the COG Corporation. She said COG would be sponsoring regional visioning meetings. She congratulated Brian Butler, Recreation Department, who was recognized in the *Gazette* for his work. She also attended a performance of the Greenbelt Concert Band.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

LEGISLATION

Resolution to Amend Resolution 1019, a Resolution to Purchase Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases from Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000)

1st Reading

Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for first reading.

REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE HOMEOWNERS & BANK PROTECTION ACT OF

2007: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and noted that Governor O'Malley had just announced a new no-interest loan program to help people confronting foreclosures and a hot line number for complaints about the mortgage market, which she asked be published on the City's Web site.

At the November 26, 2007, regular meeting of the City Council, Greenbelt resident John Lloyd, 12-E Plateau Place, presented a request to Council for the City to pass a resolution or similar measure to support the introduction into Congress of the Homeowners & Bank Protection Act of 2007, which was drafted by the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee (LPAC). The request was referred to staff and was placed on tonight's agenda with a recommendation that if Council wished to support legislation in this area, it go with the House and Senate bills supported by the National League of Cities (NLC). Mr. Lloyd was present tonight, together with two other representatives of LPAC from Baltimore, Victor Folayan and Michael Reeves.

Mr. Lloyd spoke about the materials that had been distributed to Council showing the list of municipalities that have taken actions to support the LPAC bill. He noted that bad as the situation is locally, it is even worse in Pennsylvania, with the result that many of the cities and towns listed are from that state. Mr. Folayan spoke to explain that the reason for the request for support was to urge the introduction of the bill at the federal level.

There was considerable discussion of HR 3915, which is the House Bill being supported by the NLC, as well as a second bill that has been introduced in the Senate. Mr. Folayan insisted that HR 3915 was not as comprehensive as the LPAC draft bill and had significant gaps. He also said that while Governor O'Malley's loan fund is a good thing, such approaches deal with the problem solely as a housing problem rather than addressing the crisis in the banking and finance systems.

Mr. Roberts said he appreciated having an opportunity to discuss this topic. He said he could not support the LaRouche bill because it would establish a new federal agency to oversee the problem, though he agreed with the need to reform both the mortgage and banking systems. He said he would support sending a letter to the City's state and federal representatives urging them to pass strong legislation. The Mayor asked him if he would be willing to support the two pieces of federal legislation being supported by the NLC. He said he would prefer to state the case more generically in terms of the need rather than supporting specific bills.

Ms. Mach said she had confidence in the expertise of the NLC staff in vetting these two bills and that she would be willing to support them. She listed a number of benefits HR 3915 would provide. She made a motion that the City Council support HR 3915 and the bill sponsored by Senator Dodd in the Senate but also include a letter enumerating the areas of concern. Mr. Putens seconded the motion.

A resident of Charlestowne North spoke to say the mortgage and financial situation was having a serious impact on children and on the continuity of education for young people.

In response to a question regarding why LPAC was seeking municipal support for this issue rather than working directly with state and federal governments, Mr. Reeves explained that Congress was being so heavily lobbied on banking issues by representatives of the unregulated hedge funds that LPAC was attempting to step outside that framework and enlist support from individuals, cities and towns to counteract the lobbying efforts.

When the vote was taken, the motion was adopted 4-0.

STATE LEGISLATION: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and noted that Ruth Kastner, 125 Hedgewood Drive, had e-mailed a message of support for PG/MC 117 on Zoning Text Amendments and Zoning Regulation Amendments. Mr. McLaughlin commented that although Greenbelt has generally opposed the use of text amendments, the issue is really about outdated master plans and the need for a mechanism to update them when necessary. Mayor Davis said the dilemma is that the City has opposed text amendments because of the way they have been used. They have generally been used to benefit only limited properties; if they were genuinely providing a needed update to a master plan, they would be more broadly applicable.

Mr. Putens said the discussion was academic because there was no way this bill could get anywhere anyway. He said a message should be sent that change should be made in the right way through the revision of the zoning code and updating of the master plan.

Mr. Roberts moved that Council support the legislation, adding that the current use of text amendments was abusive of the intent of having master plans and zoning legislation. Mr. Putens seconded the motion. Mayor Davis asked if Mr. Roberts would support including in the letter a statement that the zoning ordinance and master plan need to be revised. Although initially stating some concern that these issues were not related, Mr. Roberts eventually agreed to include this as part of his motion.

Mayor Davis said Ms. Kastner had said that there should be full disclosure of the properties affected by a text amendment. Ms. Mach said she would also like to require notification to impacted parties.

Ms. Kastner then spoke to say she supported the motion and described text amendments as “zoning by stealth.” She said she appreciated the staff’s argument that some vehicle for change is needed, given the delay in revising the legislation and master plans, but that this bill would provide an opportunity to make change because if the use of text amendments were to be seriously restricted, then the demand for properly-made updates would increase.

Bob Fireovid, 114 Julian Court, said he also supported the bill since it would enable the public to respond to legislation of this type by moving the process into the sunshine. Mayor Davis asked why this bill would apply only to Prince George’s County and not Montgomery. Joan Falcão, also of 114 Julian Court, said she had attended a hearing on the bill in November and had heard it said that it was intended to address ethical issues in the handling of text amendments that were problems specifically in Prince George’s, such as the lack of disclosure of affected properties and use by some members of the County Council to do favors for one another.

When the vote was taken, the motion carried 4-0.

**RESUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION TO THE COG
TRANSPORTATION/LAND USE CONNECTIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

PROGRAM: The Mayor read the agenda comments and conveyed thanks from Councilmember Herling to Mr. McLaughlin for his effective revision of the application in line with the advice from COG staff. Ms. Mach suggested adding businesses to those who would be involved in working with transit planners to define transportation needs. There was general agreement on this change. She then moved, with a second from Mr. Roberts, that Council approve the submission of the revised application to the COG Technical Assistance Program. The motion carried 4-0.

MEETINGS: Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings. Mayor Davis asked to move the AIMCO and School Board stakeholder meetings to the list of meeting that were ready to be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn the meeting was then made by Ms. Mach and seconded by Mr. Putens. The motion carried 4-0. The Mayor adjourned the regular meeting of January 14, 2008, at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Gallagher
City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held January 14, 2008."

Judith F. Davis
Mayor